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Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Addendum

1. The United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) was established by the Security Council in its resolution 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993 for an initial period of six months. Its mandate has since then been extended and revised by the Security Council in subsequent resolutions, the latest of which, resolution 1150 (1998) of 30 January 1998, extended the mandate until 31 July 1998.

2. The total amount of resources made available to the Mission for the period from 7 August 1993 through 30 June 1998 amount to $79,991,804 gross ($75,806,204 net), as indicated in paragraph 27 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/787). Expenditures for the same period are estimated at $68,810,814 gross and an amount of $10,362,690 gross ($9,503,012 net) has been credited to Member States. Moreover, a total amount of $54,259,323 has been assessed on Member States for the operation of the Mission for the period from 7 August 1993 to 31 December 1997 and, as at 31 December 1997, contributions received totalled $47,817,315, resulting in a shortfall of $6,442,008.

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/237 of 7 June 1996, appropriated an amount of $17,089,600 gross ($16,023,400 net), inclusive of $413,500 for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. The report of the Secretary-General (A/52/770, para. 5, and annex I) indicates that expenditures for the 12-month period total $15,937,000 gross ($15,141,400 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $1,152,600 gross ($882,000 net). The Committee's recommendation is contained in paragraph 8 below. The Committee was further informed that unliquidated obligations, reported at $2.2 million in the report of the Secretary-General, have been reduced to $1.7 million as at 31 January 1998. The Advisory Committee commends the Secretary-General for the format of the report.

4. The Committee notes that the unencumbered balance results primarily from reduced expenditures in military personnel ($578,200), reflecting a 10 per cent vacancy rate; and reduced expenditures for civilian personnel ($611,900), reflecting a 7 per cent vacancy rate during the reporting period. The Committee is aware that these reductions were linked to political instability in the area of operations, which resulted in the curtailment of patrol activities by military observers and made it difficult to obtain civilian personnel during the period in question. An unutilized balance for air operations of $423,300 is also reported, resulting from a voluntary contribution in kind in addition to the provision of an aircraft by the Government of Switzerland, as indicated

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in the report of the Secretary-General (para. 5 and annex II.B (item 6)).

5. Additional requirements, which offset the unutilized balances mentioned above, are indicated for infrastructure repairs, transport operations, other equipment, and the Mission's share of maintenance costs for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, and are explained in paragraph 6 of the report and in annex II.B. The Advisory Committee notes, however, as indicated in the supplementary explanation contained in paragraph 46 of annex II.B, that $171,000 relates to updating data-processing equipment. Moreover, for the 1997-1998 period, an amount of $90,800 was budgeted, and for the period 1998-1999, the amount of $84,300 is proposed for the purchase of data-processing equipment. The Committee points out that, despite the considerable amount of resources spent on data-processing equipment up to now, it was not able to obtain the most up-to-date financial data at the time of the hearings, as required by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/233 of 23 December 1994. The Committee trusts that problems in the application of existing data-processing technology will be resolved.

6. Paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General indicates that "an amount of $237,948 in respect of the period ending 30 June 1996 was recorded in the UNOMIG accounts for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997". Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the amounts indicated in table 1 had not been recorded correctly at the time. The Committee recommends that, in future, the reasons for this treatment of expenditures be clearly explained, and an indication given if any corresponding savings were realized with regard to previous periods.

7. The Committee further notes the information contained in paragraphs 9 to 11 regarding additional expenditures amounting to $334,300, over and above those reported in the previous financial performance report of the Secretary-General (A/51/793/Add.1) for the period from 13 January to 30 June 1996. The Committee was informed that the previous performance report was prepared before the closing of the accounts, owing to technical difficulties at the time, and was therefore based on preliminary expenditures. The breakdown of the additional expenditures is provided below:

Line item	*Financial statement*	*A/51/793/Add.1*	*Variance*
Military personnel costs	2 063.0	2 149.6	(86.6)
Civilian personnel costs	3 090.0	3 172.8	(82.8)
Premises	202.2	206.1	(4.1)
Infrastructure	—	—	—
Transport operations	547.0	295.1	251.9
Air operations	10.0	52.4	(42.4)
Communications	341.0	200.1	140.9
Other equipment	56.0	26.8	29.2
Supplies and services	188.0	122.8	65.2
Public information	—	1.2	(1.2)
Freight	109.0	45.2	63.8
Support account	278.0	277.6	0.4
Total	**6 884.0**	**6 549.7**	**334.3**

8. The action to be taken by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-second session in connection with the financing of UNOMIG is indicated in paragraph 12 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/770). Bearing in mind its observations made above, the Advisory Committee concurs with setting off the additional expenditures of $334,300 gross ($265,300 net), for the period from 13 January to 30 June 1996, against the unencumbered balance of $1,152,600 gross ($882,000 net) for the period from 1 July 1996 through 30 June 1997. The Committee also recommends that the resulting adjusted unencumbered balance of $818,300 gross ($616,700 net) should be credited to Member States.

Cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

9. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General of 9 February 1998 (A/52/787, para. 36, and annex I), the cost estimates proposed for the maintenance of UNOMIG for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 amount to $20,743,400 gross ($19,756,700 net), including budgeted voluntary contributions in kind totalling $2,294,000, related to the provision by the Government of Switzerland of an aircraft as well as the charter costs, fuel, aircrew salaries and insurance associated with it (para. 30). The 4 per cent increase in gross terms over the total resources of $19,872,800, provided for the maintenance of UNOMIG for the prior period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, is justified in terms of increased requirements for civilian personnel, transportation, communications and other equipment. As indicated in paragraph 14 below, the Advisory Committee is recommending acceptance of the Secretary-General's request.

10. The proposed staffing table for UNOMIG provides for 135 military observers and 157 civilian staff, comprising 62 international staff (20 in the Professional category, 20 Field Service, 15 General Service, and 7 Security Service) and 95 Local staff. This represents an increase of 17 posts in comparison with the previous budget period, as summarized in the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/787, paras. 41-42, and annexes IV and V). The changes include the establishment of a D-2 post for a Deputy Head of Mission, who would concentrate on the operational side of the Mission, in view of the need for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to concentrate on the complex peace negotiations; an increase of 20 Local staff posts, including the conversion of 10 international posts to Local-level posts, and several reclassifications which are summarized in annex V to the report of the Secretary-General. In the light of its previous comments on granting to the Secretary-General the authority and flexibility to reclassify posts up to the P-5 level, included in paragraph 8 of its twelfth report (A/48/7/Add.11), endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/228 C of 29 July 1994, and reiterated in paragraphs 98 to 104 of the Committee's report (A/50/7), the Committee will not object to the proposed reclassifications. However, it stresses the need to justify reclassifications fully and clearly in terms of changes in responsibilities and job content. A copy of the letter, dated 11 February 1998, received by the Advisory Committee in relation to the appointment of the Deputy Head of Mission is attached (see annex).

11. In terms of financial resources, civilian personnel costs reflect an increase of almost 4 per cent, to $8,153,600, when compared to those budgeted for the current budget period. The requirements are made on the basis of a 10 per cent vacancy rate for international staff and full incumbency at the local level. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that, as of 31 January 1998, of the 70 international staff posts authorized under the current budget, 60 were encumbered, and all 74 posts authorized at the local level were encumbered, while one additional local staff was being charged to an international post.

12. The increase in item 5, Transport operations, from $1,077,300 during the current budget period to the proposed amount of $1,435,100 for 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, is justified in terms of the need to replace 25 aged vehicles (listing non-recurrent costs of $510,600) and higher maintenance costs for the mine-protected and ballistics-protective vehicles ($632,500 in recurrent costs). Budget item 8, Communications, also shows an increase in requirements from $361,000 during the current period to $503,600 for the 12-month period after 1 July 1998, in view of the need to upgrade the communications network, as indicated in paragraph 23 of annex II.C to the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/787).

13. An amount of $415,500 is proposed under budget line 9, Other equipment, which provides $256,400 under data-processing equipment, including $84,300 for the purchase of equipment. The Committee notes that, as indicated in paragraph 27 (c) of annex II.C, UNOMIG plans "to complete the upgrading and replacement of obsolete equipment in the Mission during this period". In view of its comments in paragraph 5 above, the Committee trusts that expenditures for upgrading and replacement of data-processing equipment will improve the update of inventories and recording of financial data.

14. Paragraph 44 of the report of the Secretary-General sets out the action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNOMIG, which includes the appropriation of the amount of $18,449,400 gross ($17,462,700 net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, and assessment at a monthly rate of $1,537,450 gross ($1,455,225 net), subject to the extension(s) by the Security Council of the mandate of UNOMIG beyond 31 July 1998. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's request.

Annex

Letter dated 11 February 1998 from the Controller addressed to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Dear Mr. Chairman,

You will recall that, in my letter of 26 September 1997, I informed the Advisory Committee of the Secretary-General's intention to redeploy resources to strengthen the civilian staffing of UNOMIG through temporary assistance equivalent to 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 GS and 1 FS. This enabled the Mission to appoint one Senior Political Affairs Officer, one Legal Officer, one Special Assistant/Public Information Officer and two secretaries, as well as meet a technical requirement of one Field Service Officer to assume the duties of Supervisor of the Radio Stores and Inventory Unit.

By its resolution 1150 (1998) of 30 January 1998 the Security Council extended the mandate of UNOMIG until 31 July 1998.

In the light of the complex nature of UNOMIG's tasks and the need to ensure uninterrupted high-level political presence in the mission area, the Secretary-General believes that there is an immediate need for a Deputy Head of Mission at the D-2 level. It is envisaged that the Deputy Head of Mission would require the support of one international General Service staff as secretary and one locally recruited driver.

It is estimated that the cost of the three additional staff (equivalent to 1 D-2, 1 General Service and 1 local), together with necessary transport and office equipment requirements would amount to $161,200 gross ($142,700 net) for the period from 15 February to 30 June 1998. The Secretary-General therefore intends to redeploy resources from air operations to general temporary assistance to meet these additional requirements. These changes will be reported in the performance report for the period. Job descriptions covering the responsibilities associated with each international post are provided in the attached appendix.

(*Signed*) Jean-Pierre **Halbwachs**
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

Appendix

Job descriptions

1. *Deputy Head of Mission (D-2)*

   Under the supervision of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Head of Mission shall act on his behalf during his absence from the mission area; provide advice on all matters relating to the implementation of United Nations mandates in the Mission; propose political strategy for appropriate United Nations decision-making and negotiating tactics for discussion with concerned parties; ensure that the Mission abides by the decisions of the Security Council; provide the Special Representative with advice on all matters relating to the implementation of United Nations mandates in respect of UNOMIG; coordinate the functions of United Nations agencies in the mission in relation to political and strategic operational planning and be responsible for overseeing the activities of the Mission's regional offices.

2. *Secretary to Deputy Head of Mission (GS)*

   Under the supervision of the Deputy Head of Mission, the Secretary shall provide administrative, clerical and secretarial support, including scheduling appointments and meetings, shall attend meetings, record, draft and distribute minutes of meetings; draft correspondence, take telephone messages, make travel arrangements and prepare the necessary travel forms; manage and maintain a filing system for correspondence and computerized records. Perform other assignments as required.